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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

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SUBJECT: "Control of Rabies"--Information from animal scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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The words "mad dog" are freighted with terror, even for those of us who have never seen a rabid animal.

From 7,000 to 10,000 animals are victims of rabies, each year, in the United States. Some of these are cats, cattle, pigs, sheep, horses, and goats. A few are wild animals. But most of the victims of rabies are dogs.

Dr. H.W. Schoening of the U. S. Department of Agriculture says that rabies can be stamped out in this country. This disease can be conquered here just as it has been conquered in other countries...in England, Sweden and in Australia. Science has shown that dogs are the key to the problem. Science has also shown that rabies can be stamped out if the disease in dogs is eliminated.

To stamp out the disease, a combination of several measures is recommended, all of which are essential. No one measure is adequate. Dogs must be licensed. Stray dogs must be impounded. There must be rigid inspection and quarantine of dogs at borders and ports of entry. Rabid dogs and those suspected of being rabid must be examined and if affected disposed of in a way that they will not spread the disease. Dogs known to be bitten by rabid dogs must be placed under strict quarantine for at least six months...or they must be destroyed. In addition...vaccination is recommended.

The effective control of rabies requires the cooperation of the dog owner, of the community, and of officials charged with the control of the disease.

To quote Dr. Schoening: "Enough scientific knowledge to do a thorough job is already at hand. When public sentiment favoring intensive rabies control measures becomes general...rapid progress will follow.

8-3-45

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